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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Changes in High Command

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1. Maj. Gen. Bohumil Lomský, formerly commander of the 2nd Mountain Brigade, who became First Vice Minister of National Defense on 1 Jan 54, has received an invitation to visit Moscow in Feb 1954. He will be accompanied by Maj. Gen. Jan Zeman, head of the Political Bureau of the army, who recently took over most of the functions of General Ceněk Hruška, who is to be retired definitely. They will meet with Marshal Bulganin and Marshal Rokossovsky of the Polish Army.
2. Lomský has become the real head of the Czechoslovak Army, and with Zeman has greatly reduced the influence of General Kratochvíl, chief of the general staff, who is not liked in Moscow. The two officers are in practice directing the Ministry of Defense; they are considered the strongest supporters of blind obedience to Moscow, and their sudden promotion as of 1 Jan 54 has aroused considerable indignation in the general staff.
3. Their chief competitors, General Janko, commander of the Moto-Mechanized Army, and Brig. Gen. Jan Heško of the Political Bureau, have been pushed into second rank as being suspected of too independent conduct toward the Soviet Military Mission.
4. Lomský, as expert on fortifications who is particularly well acquainted with the Sudeten Zone, is known for his violently anti-American attitude. He has always been cold toward Maj. Gen. Otakar Rytíř, Commander of the 1st Military District and Gen. Jan Tokaň, commander at Bratislava, and changes in these commands may be expected. It is probable that Maj. Gen. František Bureš, commander at Olomouc, who was under surveillance during his stay in Korea as a member of the Armistice Commission, will be retired, as well as Gen. František Papoušek.

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5. Such major changes are likely to produce a reaction among the officers scheduled for retirement and arrests are in order. The position of General Vaclav Thor, until recently all-powerful in the Defense Ministry, is considered particularly delicate.
6. General Lomsky also expects to reorganize on Soviet lines the advanced military schools, notably the Klement Gottwald Military Academy and the Technical Academy, where a spirit of neutrality toward the USSR has been the rule.

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